

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02252 200059Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
VO-05 DODE-00 /044 W
-----051403 200923Z /14

R 190920Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 297
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2252

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEES: SINGAPORE TRANSIT CAMP

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 4355, (B) SINGAPORE 1243

1. WE NOTE SAMPATKUMAR COMMENT, NOTED REF A, PARA 4B, THAT HARTLING HAD INSTRUCTED HIM NOT TO RAISE WITH GOS QUESTION OF SINGAPORE'S OFFER OF REFUGEE TRANSIT CAMP BECAUSE GOS HAD NOT RESPONDED TO MACE'S DECEMBER 1977 LETTER OR TO SAMP-ATKUMAR'S APPROACHES. WE FEAR THERE MAY BE MISUNDERSTANDING OF THIS ISSUE ON PART OF UNHCR.

2. WHEN EMBOFF DISCUSSED TRANSIT CAMP PROPOSAL WITH MID-LEVEL MFA OFFICIAL IN MARCH (REF B) LATTER WAS CLEARLY SURPRISED AT SUGGESTION THAT GOS OWED UNHCR A REPLY TO MACE'S LETTER. OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED THAT, FAR AS GOS WAS CONCERNED, LETTER HAD BEEN ANSWERED MANY TIMES OVER IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND OTHER OFFICIAL GOS COMMENTS SPELLING OUT IN PRECISE DETAIL WHAT SINGAPORE NEEDED IN WAY OF ADVANCE GUARANTEES TO PERMIT OPENING OF CAMP. WHILE MFA OFFICIAL DID AGREE UNENTHUSIASTICALLY TO SUGGEST
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TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT GOS CONSIDER A REPLY TO MACE LETTER IN ORDER START BALL ROLLING AGAIN, HE DID NOT INDICATE ANY OPTIMISM THAT THIS SUGGESTION WOULD BE TAKEN UP. AS MORE THAN TWO MONTHS HAVE GONE BY SINCE THAT TIME, SEEMS CLEAR THAT NO GOS RESPONSE TO LETTER WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

3. AS TO SAMPATKUMAR'S OWN ORAL APPROACHES, OUR UNDER-
STANDING IS THAT HE HAS MADE NONE AT ALL TO GOS SINCE
BEFORE DISPATCH OF MACE'S 1977 LETTER. IN SUM, WE FEEL
THAT APPARENT UNHCR POSTURE OF SITTING BACK TO AWAIT
GOS RESPONSE TO 1977 APPROACHES IS SURE FORMULA FOR
CONTINUED INACTION ON THIS PROJECT.

4. WE HAVE REPORTED IN RECENT MESSAGES THAT AN IMPROMPTU
TRANSIT CAMP FOR REFUGEES HAS ALREADY SPRUNG UP IN
SINGAPORE WHILE GOS AND UNHCR HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THE
OTHER TO MAKE A MOVE ON GOS PROPOSAL. CURRENT POPULATION
OF THIS SINGAPORE "CAMP" IS NOW IN EXCESS OF 400 REFUGEES.
SINCE WE SEEM TO BE ENJOYING AT LEAST SOME OF BENEFITS THAT WE
HOPED TO DERIVE FROM TRANSIT CAMP, WE SURMISE THAT UNHCR MAY
SEE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR CAMP AS LESS URGENT. WE FEEL,
HOWEVER, THAT CAMP WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IN HANDLING CONTINUED
REFUGEE FLOW AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT UNHCR COULD BE
PERSUADED TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE TOWARD GETTING IT
ESTABLISHED.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780539/aaaabgze.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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